

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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NEWS ADVISORY
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FORMER MARSHFIELD MAN ARRESTED IN MURDER/BURGLARY

MARSHFIELD – Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz and Marshfield Police Chief Phillip Tavares have announced that a former Marshfield man has been arrested and will face murder and burglary charges tomorrow in Plymouth District Court.

State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office, Marshfield Police and Boston Police arrested James W. Ferguson (DOB: 8/13/75), who formerly lived in Marshfield, Saturday evening at his current home in Dorchester.

On Wednesday, September 16, 2015, Marshfield Police received a 911 call reporting the death of Robert E. McKenna, a 43-year-old male who was discovered in his home at 190 Damon's Point Road by a friend. McKenna was found lying face up on his kitchen floor. He was unresponsive and had sustained a substantial cut to his right upper arm, cuts to both hands and back of his head. There was an observed massive loss of blood. Mr. McKenna was pronounced dead at the scene and his body was taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Boston for autopsy. The Medical Examiner's findings are consistent with death being caused by exsanguination due to injuries to the right arm severing large blood vessels and penetrating soft tissue injuries of the head.

State Police Detectives and Marshfield Police have been working around the clock to investigate the death. Their investigation resulted in the discovery of items of clothing, footwear and gloves at the scene and along the suspected route that the perpetrator took to leave the scene. State Police Crime Lab testing confirmed the presence of the victim's blood and DNA on an item found by investigators.

The crime lab processed recovered items for DNA and recovered a usable profile from a piece of clothing and uploaded it to the FBI's Combined Offender DNA Index System, or CODIS. On Friday, September 25th, it was reported that the submission of male DNA profile entry to CODIS had been matched to Ferguson.

As a result, State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office sought and obtained a warrant for the arrest of Ferguson and tomorrow he will be arraigned in Plymouth District Court

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on murder and burglary charges. Ferguson is being held on \$5 million bail pending his arraignment.

The investigation into Mr. McKenna's homicide is active and ongoing. Anyone with any information is urged to contact State Police at (508) 923-4000 or Marshfield Police at (781) 834-6655.

This case was investigated by State Police Detectives assigned to the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, Marshfield Police, State Police Crime Scene Services, the State Police Crime Lab, State Police Search and Rescue Team, State Police K-9 Officers and the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section.

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